

2007 CACRAO
SC Guidance Conferences
SC Commission on
Higher Education

- A copy of today's presentation can be found on the Commission on Higher Education website (www.che.sc.gov) under Scholarship & Grants.

Agenda

- General Eligibility – All Programs
- SC HOPE Scholarship
- LIFE Scholarship
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- SC Need-based Grant
- Lottery Tuition Assistance
- Early Graduates
- Question and Answer/Wrap-up
- Contact Information

General Eligibility – All Programs

General Eligibility Criteria Applies to All Programs

- Be a South Carolina resident;
- Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident (green card);
- Be enrolled as a degree-seeking student at an eligible South Carolina public or independent institution;
- Certify that the he/she has never been convicted of any felonies and has not been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol and/or drug-related misdemeanors within the past academic year (except Lottery Tuition Assistance); and

General Eligibility Criteria Applies to All Programs

- Verify that he/she does not owe a refund or repayment on any federal or state financial aid and is not in default on any federal student loans.

High School Grades

Students must have their GPA reported on the SC Uniform Grading Scale (UGS) to be eligible for State scholarships.

SC HOPE Scholarship

SC HOPE Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Earn at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA based on the UGS upon high school graduation
- Be a South Carolina resident at the time of high school graduation and at the time of college enrollment
- Must not be a recipient of a LIFE Scholarship, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance

SC HOPE Scholarship

Awarding Process

- Full-time students attending an eligible four-year institution may receive up to \$2,800 (including a \$300 book allowance) toward the cost-of-attendance during the **first year only**. Half will be awarded in the fall semester and half in the spring semester.
- Students are eligible to receive the SC HOPE Scholarship for up to two terms based on initial college enrollment.
- Students who receive the SC HOPE Scholarship and earn a 3.0 LIFE GPA and 30 credit hours by the end of the first year may receive the LIFE Scholarship for the second year of college.

SC HOPE Scenario

- A student graduates from a SC high school with a 3.0 GPA, 1000 SAT and is in the top 40% of their graduating class.
- Student decides to attend UNC Charlotte.
- After their first year, the student decides to transfer back to SC to complete their education.
- Can the student receive the SC HOPE Scholarship for a year upon returning to SC?

LIFE Scholarship

LIFE Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Be a South Carolina resident at the time of high school graduation and at the time of college enrollment
- Must not be a recipient of the SC HOPE Scholarship, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance during the academic year

LIFE Scholarship

Initial Eligibility Criteria for the LIFE Scholarship

Initial Eligibility Requirements for Students Attending Four-year Institutions:

First-time full-time entering freshmen attending an eligible SC institution must meet two of the following three criteria to qualify for the LIFE Scholarship:

1. Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Scale;
2. Minimum 1100 SAT or 24 ACT; and
3. Rank in the top 30% of the graduating class (diploma eligible students only and based on the SC Uniform Grading Scale)

Initial Eligibility Requirements for Students Attending Two-year Institutions:

1. Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Scale (the standardized test score and class rank requirements are waived).

***SC Department of Education's UGS:**

<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/hsr/UGP.html>

LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

Initial Eligibility Criteria

To receive a LIFE Scholarship Enhancement, students must meet all of the following requirements:

- Meet all of the eligibility requirements at the end of each academic year for the LIFE Scholarship and be a recipient of LIFE Scholarship funds at the time of LIFE Scholarship Enhancement disbursement. (The student must receive the underlying LIFE Scholarship.)
- Be enrolled as a full-time, degree-seeking student in a declared major of science or mathematics or eligible program assigned a CIP code by CHE.
- Be enrolled at an eligible four-year public or independent institution located in SC.
- Be in the second, third or fourth year of full-time enrollment (based on initial date of college enrollment after high school graduation) in an eligible undergraduate degree program at an eligible four-year public or independent institution located in South Carolina.

LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

Initial Eligibility Criteria (Continued)

Incoming 2007 Freshman Class & Thereafter

- Beginning with the Fall 2007 freshman class and thereafter, all students must have successfully completed a total of at least fourteen credit hours of instruction in mathematics and life and physical science courses with a minimum of six hours in mathematics and a minimum of six hours in life and physical science including one laboratory course by the end of the student's first year of enrollment in college (based on initial date of college enrollment).

LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

Initial Eligibility Criteria (Continued)

Fourteen Credit Hour Requirement

Students **may** use credit hours earned by the end of the first year of college enrollment (based on initial date of college enrollment) in the following courses to meet the fourteen credit hour requirement for the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement:

- Exempted credit hours earned on a transcript at an eligible institution (only);
- Advanced Placement (AP) credit hours earned on a transcript for a grade of three or more on an AP exam at an eligible institution (only);
- International Baccalaureate (IB) courses;
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP) earned on a transcript of an eligible institution(only);
- Pass/Fail credit hours for courses with a grade of “Pass” (only);
- Credit hours earned in high school while in a dual enrollment program at an eligible institution;
- Credit hours earned in summer school at an eligible institution;
- Credit hours earned at in-state eligible institutions; and
- Credit hours earned at out-of-state eligible institutions.

LIFE Scholarship & LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

Award Amounts

- Full-time students attending an eligible SC four-year institution (public and independent) may receive up to \$5,000 (including a \$300 book allowance) toward the cost of attendance each academic year.
- Full-time students attending an eligible SC two-year institution (public and independent) may receive up to the cost of tuition and fees plus a \$300 book allowance.
- LIFE Scholarship Enhancement can be awarded up to \$2,500 for students attending eligible SC four-year institutions as a declared major in an eligible math or science field.
- The LIFE Scholarship may be awarded for a maximum of eight consecutive semesters (excluding summer school) at a four-year institution, up to four consecutive terms at a two-year institution for an associate's degree program and up to two consecutive terms for a one year diploma program (based on initial date of college enrollment). The LIFE Scholarship may be awarded for ten consecutive semesters if the student is in a CHE approved 5-year program.
- LIFE Scholarship Enhancement can be awarded up to six consecutive terms at a four-year institution.

LIFE Scholarship Scenario

- Student A graduates high school with a 3.2 cumulative GPA on the UGS, 1050 SAT, and top 50% class rank
- Student A initially enrolls in Fall 2008 at a two-year institution and receives the LIFE Scholarship
- Student A decides to transfer to a four-year institution mid-year in Spring 2009
- Can Student A receive a LIFE Scholarship at the four-year institution?

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- For early awards, students must submit applications to the Commission on Higher Education by **December 14, 2007**. In order to be eligible to apply for early awards, students must meet one of the following criteria (students cannot use these criteria to meet the final awards criteria):
 - Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 ACT) by the November test administration of the high school senior year, earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA on the SC Uniform Grading Scale (UGS) at the end of the junior year, and rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of either the sophomore or the junior year; or
 - Score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT) by the November test administration of the high school senior year and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA on the SC UGS at the end of the junior year, without regard to class rank.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- For final awards, students must submit applications to the Commission on Higher Education by **June 13, 2008**. In order to be eligible to apply for final awards, students must meet one of the following criteria:
 - Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 ACT) by the June national test administration of the senior year, earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA on the SC UGS at the end of the senior year, and rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of the senior year; or
 - Score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT) by the June national test administration and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA on the SC UGS at the end of the senior year, without regard to class rank.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Final Awards for Pending Students:
 - Must meet all other criteria (either 3.5 GPA at end of senior year & top 6% of graduating senior class or 4.0 GPA at end of senior year)
 - Must be registered for the June test administration (please verify by requesting copy of registration confirmation)
 - SAT Code – 4313
 - ACT Code – 6326

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **Final Awards for Pending Students:**
 - Counselors **MUST** submit an online application for **ALL** eligible and pending students by the June 13 deadline. Counselors should place the pending students' names on the Pending Applicants Form, and the eligible students' names on the Eligible Applicants Form.
 - **All pending students must submit an online application prior to receiving their SAT scores.**

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- For early and final awards:
 - SAT score must be calculated by using the highest Math score combined with the highest Critical Reading score (formerly Verbal score). Students cannot use the Writing subsection score. Students may use either the SAT version prior to March 2005 and/or the new SAT. ACT composite score is based upon one test sitting.
 - For early awards, test scores will be accepted through the November test administration of the senior year. For final awards, test scores will be accepted through the June national test administration of the senior year.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- For early and final awards:
 - GPAs must be reported with at least two decimal places and cannot be rounded.
 - Rank is calculated by multiplying the number in class by six percent. If the resulting number is not a whole number, then round it up to the next whole number of students, without regard to normal rounding rules. ($185 \times 6\% = 11.1$, rounded to the next whole number of 12) This formula should be used for the sophomore, junior and senior years.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Information about the electronic application process will be mailed to principals and counselors in October 2007 for the early awards and in March 2008 for final awards.
- **Counselors are responsible for notifying all eligible students.**
- Web site for on-line applications for counselor and student will remain the same (counselor & student must submit their portions on-line and will receive receipts as confirmation).

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Counselors are still required to mail Eligible/Pending Applicants Forms, signature forms, official transcripts, test score verification and any declination forms in one package by the established deadlines for early and final awards (Commission requests that one counselor be given lead responsibility for coordinating this process).

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

AWARDING PROCESS

- Must enroll the fall term immediately following high school graduation
- Freshman students may receive up to \$6,700 during the first academic year toward the cost-of-attendance
- Sophomores, juniors and seniors may receive up to \$7,500 each academic year toward the cost-of-attendance

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement

To receive a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement, students must meet all of the following requirements:

- Meet all of the eligibility requirements at the end of each academic year for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- Be enrolled as a full-time, degree-seeking student in a declared major in mathematics or science or eligible program assigned a CIP code by CHE
- Be enrolled at an eligible four-year public or independent institution located in SC
- Be in the second, third or fourth year of full-time enrollment (based on initial date of college enrollment after high school graduation) in an eligible undergraduate degree program at an eligible four-year public or independent institution located in South Carolina

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement

Eligibility Requirements

- Beginning with the Fall 2007 freshman class, all students must have successfully completed a total of at least fourteen credit hours of instruction in mathematics and life and physical science courses with a minimum of six hours in mathematics and a minimum of six hours in life and physical science including one laboratory course by the end of the student's first year of enrollment in college (based on initial date of college enrollment).

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement

Eligibility Requirements

- In order to meet the fourteen credit hour requirement students will be allowed to use:
 1. Advanced Placement (AP) credit hours earned on a transcript for a grade of three or more on an AP exam at an eligible institution (only)
 2. International Baccalaureate (IB) courses
 3. Credit hours earned in high school while in a dual enrollment program at an eligible institution

Note: AP, IB and dual enrollment courses cannot be used to meet the base Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Requirements.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement

Award Amount

- Eligible Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement recipients can be awarded up to \$10,000, not to exceed the cost-of-attendance
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement can be awarded up to six consecutive terms at a four-year institution

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Scenario

- Student meets GPA and class rank for PFS during senior year early award (December) and fails to meet the SAT or ACT requirement until June
- In June student no longer ranks in the top six percent of his/her senior class when the SAT or ACT requirement is met
- Does the student qualify for a PFS?

SC Need-based Grant

SC Need-based Grant

Awarding Process

- Each academic year, must file a FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st. Please be sure to check with the institution or the Tuition Grants Commission, if attending an independent institution, concerning their deadline.
- Students must be needy based on the results of the FAFSA (consistent with Pell Grant eligibility)
- Students may receive up to \$2,500 annually if enrolled full-time and up to \$1,250 annually if enrolled part-time for a maximum of eight full-time equivalent terms (college's financial aid office determines the exact award amount)

SC Need-based Grant

Awarding Process (Continued)

- Students must be enrolled in their first one-year program, first associate's degree, first two-year program leading to a bachelor's degree, first bachelor's degree, or first professional degree
- Institutions must give first priority and award the maximum allowable award to students who are in the custody of the SC Department of Social Services which may include youth who have aged out of the system.

SC Need-based Grant

Awarding Process (Continued)

- Foster care youth attending an eligible institution who meet eligibility and continued eligibility requirements, may receive an additional NBG award. For FY 2007-08 → \$1408.
- The SC Tuition Grants Commission awards the SC Need-based Grant for the independent institutions. It is included as part of the Tuition Grant award

S.C. Need-based Grant Scenario

- A student is a dependent child of a disabled sole parent who is unable to work.
- The student receives his/her financial aid award letter indicating they have received the maximum Pell Grant along with the federal supplement, but does not receive any state aid. Why?

S.C. Need-based Grant Scenario

- A student is a dependent child of a disabled sole parent who is unable to work.
- The student received the S.C. Need-based Grant the year before, but did not receive it the following year. Why?

Lottery Tuition Assistance Program (LTAP)

Lottery Tuition Assistance

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must file the FAFSA or FAFSA Waiver each academic year (check institutional deadlines)
- Enroll in a minimum of six (6) credit hours each term as a degree-seeking student in a certificate, diploma or associate's degree program

Lottery Tuition Assistance

AWARDING PROCESS

- Must first apply federal grants and the SC Need-based Grant toward the cost-of-tuition
- For the Fall 2007 term, students may receive up to \$72 per credit hour if enrolled part-time and up to \$864 if enrolled full-time toward the cost-of-tuition.
- The award amount is subject to change each term based on the number of eligible students and available funding.

DUALLY-ENROLLED HS STUDENTS

- Any grades and credit hours earned by a current high school student while dually enrolled (whether the course is taken this year or was taken in previous years) will be included in his/her LIFE GPA.

LTAP Scenario

- A student is dually enrolled while a senior in high school.
- The student is awarded the LIFE Scholarship, and after their freshman year in college, have a 3.2 Institutional GPA and 36 earned hours.
- The student is notified by their college that he/she has not met the LIFE GPA requirement for continued eligibility, and will not receive their LIFE Scholarship in the upcoming Fall.
- Has the institution made an error? If not, what is the likely cause for the decline in the student's GPA?

Early Graduates

Early Graduation Application

(http://www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/LIFE/Early_Graduation_Form.pdf)

- Students who complete their high school graduation requirements mid-year their senior year prior to the official graduation date (usually May/June with their senior class) may be eligible to receive the HOPE/LIFE Scholarships dependent on prior approval by the Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
- The student must submit an Early Graduation Application, an official high school transcript, SAT/ACT scores (LIFE Scholarship) and an official letter from the high school principal verifying that he/she has met all graduation requirements to the Commission on Higher Education by March 1

Early Graduates

(Continued)

- Early graduates cannot use class rank to qualify for the LIFE Scholarship mid-year since the class has not officially graduated. Students may qualify for the HOPE Scholarship with a 3.0 GPA or the LIFE Scholarship with a 3.0 GPA and 1100 SAT/24 ACT score

Early Graduation Scenario 1

- Student A meets all of the requirements for high school graduation at the end of the junior year of high school in May 2008
- The student enrolls in college as a first-time freshman in Fall 2008
- Does Student A need to submit an Early Graduation application to CHE to receive a LIFE Scholarship at an eligible SC institution?

Early Graduation Scenario 2

- Student B meets all of the requirements for high school graduation at the end of the fall term (December 2007 deadline) of the senior year of high school.
- Although Student B does not officially graduate high school until May 2008, the student enrolls full-time in college in Spring 2008 as a first-time freshman.
- Student B meets the initial eligibility requirements to receive a LIFE Scholarship, but does not submit an Early Graduation application to CHE by the March 1, 2008 deadline.
- Is Student B eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship?

College Goal Sunday

- Program to help low-income families and first-generation students complete the FAFSA
- Attempts to reduce or eliminate one major barrier to postsecondary education: applying for financial aid

Question and Answer Session/ Wrap-up

Contact Information

- **Dr. Karen Woodfaulk - Director**
803.737.2244 or kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov
- **Dr. Tajuana Massie – LIFE Scholarship Manager**
803.737.2271 or tmassie@che.sc.gov
- **Mr. Reginald Adams – Palmetto Fellows Manager**
803.737.2128 or radams@che.sc.gov
- **Mr. Gerrick Hampton –Residency, Lottery Tuition Assistance,
S.C. Hope Scholarship Coordinator**
803.734.4397 or ghampton@che.sc.gov
- **Ms. Lorna Manglona-Williams – Need-based Grant Coordinator**
803.737.2262 or lmangwilliams@che.sc.gov
- **Mr. Franklin Davis – HEAP/GO Alliance, College Goal Sunday**
803.737-9758 or fdavis@che.sc.gov

Toll Free: 1-877-349-7183

Website: www.che.sc.gov

Additional Contact Information

- **Scholarship Brochure**

http://www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/scholarship_brochure_2005.pdf

- **SC Tuition Grants Commission**

<http://www.sctuitiongrants.com/>

- **Policy Guidelines**

<http://www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/LIFE/Directives.htm>

- **Scholarship and Grant Regulations**

http://www.che.sc.gov/New_Web/ForInstitutions/Scholarship_GuideIns.htm